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D49er

ASI

A campus divided over divestment

An ASI resolution to divest in Israel sparks questions of anti-Semitism and human rights.

By Valerie Osier
News Editor

The Senate chambers were filled with people sitting on the floor, crowding in the foyer and outside to show their support or opposition of a resolution at the most recent Associated Students, Inc. Senate meeting. This resolution to divest from Israel has left the Cal State Long Beach campus divided and in passionate debate for the past several weeks.

The resolution, titled "Socially Responsible Investing: Companies Complacent in and Profiting from Palestinian Oppression," or SR #2017-37, calls for the divestment of 49er Foundation funds in seven specific companies: Raytheon, G4s, Veola, Caterpillar, General Electric, Northrop Grumman and Hewlett-Packard Company.

It's one of three resolutions for socially responsible investing, with the other two focused on profiting from LGBTQ+ oppression and private prisons.

One of the resolutions four authors, Senator-At-Large Yasmeen Azam, said SR #2017-37 is in response to a broader resolution that was past last year calling for socially responsible divestment.

After that resolution was passed, senators at the time, including some of the new resolution's authors, met with Vice President of Finance Mary Stephens and she told them the request was too broad.

"I explained that a very broad request to divest is difficult to implement because a significant portion of the Foundation's investments are large, mixed portfolios," Stephens said in an email. "I noted that the more specifically defined the issue, the more likely the Board of Directors could evaluate the request to determine how they could respond while still fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility."

Azam, who was not a senator at the time, said the senators then determined three topics they were personally passionate about and the most well-versed in.

"What we're doing is going the next step," Azam said " ... It doesn't violate the [first] initiative, it just enhances it."

President Jane Close Conoley wrote a letter to ASI and the Daily 49er the day before SR #2017-37's first reading in ASI Senate, encouraging senators to vote no on the resolution, stating that the campus is already working towards socially responsible investing and that it would fuel more anti-Semitic acts on campus. She also cited other college

see **RESOLUTION**, page 2

Isabel Ramos | Daily 49er

The Art of Relaxation

Students saw the return of Beach Pride's Corks and Canvases painting class Tuesday evening prior to finals. For more on the event, **see page 4.**

INTERNATIONAL

The Venezuelan crisis as seen by a CSULB engineering major

19-year old Venezuelan student talks about her home country's turmoil.

By Elizabeth Campos
Staff Writer

Instead of packing bathing suits and souvenirs for her vacations, Marianne Guevara packs essentials such as medicine, diapers, menstrual pads, soap and toothpaste when preparing for her visits back to Venezuela.

Her family and friends ask her for these basic items because they cannot be easily purchased in Venezuela.

Since oil prices plummeted in the country, food and personal care items rose in price, leaving many store shelves empty. The people of Venezuela have been rising against its President Nicolas Maduro for over a year in response.

Maduro has been in power since April 2013, and although he's known for following former President Hugo Chavez's socialism practices, the interim president has been causing tremendous havoc throughout the country.

Maduro has failed to use the country's funds for food and medicine for the Venezuelan people. People have endured weeks without basic food staples and sometimes the need is such that they have to eat out of the trash.

For Guevara, a 19-year-old biomedical engineering student at Cal State Long Beach with an international student visa, it's not easy living in the United States while knowing her family lacks basic necessities.

Born in Maturin, Venezuela, Guevara came to the United States to get her degree in biomedical engineering, a career that isn't offered in Venezuela. In addition, she said that her career would not be as valuable in Venezuela as it can be here.

During his presidency, Chavez fired over 10,000 employees from Venezuela's oil giant, Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. and replaced them with employees who supported his socialist practices.

Guevara's parents worked for PDVSA, but they never fully supported Chavez's socialism. In 2002, when it was made public who had voted against him, her mother and father became two of the 10,000 employees who were fired for opposing Chavez.

"My dad never found a job in Venezuela since then," said Guevara. "He has worked in Peru, Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago, but he never found a job in Venezuela again."

Protests against Maduro fill the streets daily. There have been more than 1,800 arrests since early April and about 37 people have died during battles with security forces, according to NBC News

She adds that media coverage was never as accurate as it should have been. Soap operas and music videos would take up more air time than the news, she explained.

"We starve to death, the police kills us, we kill each other but the [government] doesn't do anything," Guevara said.

The economic crisis affects the entire country. But while the wealthy are still able to buy luxury goods, the middle and lower classes are facing struggles.

Guevara, aunt to a 1-year-old girl, has made sure to take large quantities of baby formula for her niece, since it's a scarcity back in Venezuela.

She notes the differences between the availability of supplies from when she was a child, to today.

"When I was little, my mom would buy a packet of diapers a week," she said. "My niece's mom started buying diapers of all sizes a year before my niece was born."

But buying diapers more than once a week (and

see **CRISIS**, page 2

CRIME BLOTTER

Apple products, bike stolen, Swastika engraved in Kevin Hart sign

By Adam R. Thomas
Staff Writer

Bike stolen near USU East Turn

A male student reported to the University Police Department that his bike had been stolen Friday from the lower campus east turnaround on State Univeristy Drive and East Campus Drive. The bike is a black Electra 10-speed with a book rack over the back wheel and is valued at $150. There are no known suspects, said Lt. Richard Goodwin of the UPD.

Computer Theft at ITS

Members of Information Technology Services in Brotman Hall reported a stolen computer its equipment on May 3. A Macbook Pro, its mouse, power supply, keyboard, flash drive and portable hard drive are missing. The crime is considered Grand Theft, according to Goodwin. There are currently no suspects.

Swastika carved into sign frame found

A swastika was engraved into a frame holding a Kevin Hart poster in Peterson Hall 1. The vandalism was reported May 3, but Goodwin said there is no way to know when it actually happened

Phone stolen in USU games area

An iPhone 6 was stolen from a student May 2 while he was in the University Student Union games area. He reported that the theft happened when he went to buy snacks around 5 p.m. He returned to find his backpack open and the phone gone.

The student said he used the "Find my iPhone" app, which showed the phone was not on campus. Goodwin said judges are unlikely to grant a search warrant to retrieve a phone off-campus, but still recommends that students whose phones might be stolen report possible locations to police rather than pursuing the devices themselves.

"We have done this, where we go to residences and talked to people and gotten the phone without having had to obtain a search warrant," Goodwin said. "Generally speaking, we've knocked on the door and said we've gotten a ping on a phone and they say, 'Oh yeah, I have it and I was going to turn it into lost and found.' That has literally happened."

RESOLUTION

continued from page 1

campuses who have passed similar resolutions and had experienced an increase in anti-Semitic acts after.

"I think on campus, the ramifications are real, they're not theoretical, like: 'students at Cal State Long Beach said x.' The truth is, that's not going to make much of a splash on the international scene, but it has already had some impact on our local situation," Conoley said. "And our local situation is the one I'm responsible for."

Azam said the goal of the resolution was not to alienate one group of students. She noted that the Jewish community isn't all in agreement on this resolution or how they feel about the state of Israel and there are some Jewish students who support the resolution as well.

"In no way can we invalidate [how Jewish students may feel]. That's how that individual feels," Azam said. "... This isn't about making [Jewish students] feel uncomfortable, this is about confronting a human rights, social justice framed issue, not a religious one, or an ethno-national one ... It's unfortunate, but there are also Palestinian students that nobody is really talking about that go to this campus that also are really bothered by the way people are responding to this."

Tali Shaddaie, a former ASI senator and a member of Beach Hillel, disagrees with the resolution, stating that it would hurt Palestinians more than help, because the companies ASI is calling for divestment from also employ Palestinian citizens in the West Bank.

"I'm not an anti-Palestinian individual, I'm for human rights, I'm for everyone getting treated equally, but I feel like this resolution does more harm than good," Shaddaie said. "Passing this resolution won't change the conditions in Palestine, it's just going to damage our campus."

Shaddaie said that Jewish students are already experiencing anti-Semitism on campus. She reported that she witnessed, at last week's ASI meeting, a peer speaking out against the resolution was called a "terrorist" by another person who had been speaking in support.

"It's marginalizing a whole community because it's only mentioning Israel and nothing else – it's talking about how it's advocating for human rights, but it doesn't mention that human rights are for all humans, and it's only specifically directing it at one population," Shaddaie said. "It's essentially giving human rights to Palestinians but not Jews. And it makes mention of how we must assure the well-being of Palestinian students on campus, but it doesn't provide the same respect to Israeli or Jewish students on campus."

Supporters of the resolution say that it is not meant to be construed as anti-Semitic.

"The discussion has been so polarized to kind of de-center the content of the resolution and have to go to saying, 'We're not anti-Semitic, I swear!' and we're constantly trying to operate within this frame of trying to defend that," Azam said.

A criticism by Conoley and others opposed to the resolution is that it only focuses on divestment from Israel and ignores similar countries with gross human rights injustices.

"That is the classic 'All Lives Matter' argument, that we've heard time and time again," Azam said. "... You need to confront certain issues, especially the ones that are not being addressed ... People need to recognize that this is a precedent for further action. There are also several other countries that we could be talking about. The work doesn't stop here. I don't know how starting with one invalidates beginning another one."

Although that is the intent of ASI, Shaddaie worries that they will never follow up with further resolutions.

"No other campus has written any other resolution to address any other population in the world after the passing of divestment or BDS resolutions," Shaddaie said. "While they say this is just a starting point, we've seen it happen on some other campuses across the U.S. and it's really not."

Both sides note the importance of dialogue and deep awareness and knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I think everybody, wherever you stand on that spectrum, is feeling a little bit marginalized. But that tension is important because it means there's this critical thought on what's happening," Azam said.

If the resolution passes, it would be up to the university administration to implement the changes to the university's investment portfolio.

"[The resolution] is a very strong ask," Azam said. "... If it passes this Wednesday, it's going to be huge because despite the very vocal and publicized opposition to it, and it still passes, it makes students understand the weight of their opinions in changing certain realities."

The third and final readings of the resolutions are planned for today at 3:30 p.m. in the Senate chamber.

CRISIS

continued from page 1

such in large quantities) is no longer possible.

Guevara said that mothers now must show the baby's birth certificate and present an identification card. The final numbers on the identification card will determine what day of the week she is able to shop.

This identification card system was implemented to track those who stock up on groceries to then resell them illegally.

However, crossing off all items of the shopping list is not guaranteed.

The situation has gotten so bad that some Venezuelans cross into Colombia to buy food. Guevara says that, at times, the military will close the border between both countries, leaving many people without food.

Some Venezuelans call to impeach president Maduro, but Victor Rodriguez, Chicano and Latino Studies professor, says that would be "like shooting yourself in the foot," because Maduro's vice president, Tareck El Aissami, is more extremist than him.

Image: stock.adobe.com

"I don't think the government is going to be overthrown," he said. "But I think there's some hot heads in the government that think 'Our president has been too tolerant. Why don't we arm our [police] officers, our army?'"

As much as she loves her home country, Guevara said she will stay in the United States and financially help her family after graduation.

"A wisdom tooth extraction is about 6000 bolivares, $15 equals 6000 bolivares" said Guevara, to illustrate how it would be more beneficial for her to send American currency to her family in Venezuela.

Regardless of the need for her area of expertise in her native country, Guevara thinks that the country's economic situation would not allow her to exercise her skill set and land a job. The 19-year-old said that she asked her parents why don't they come to the United States and start a new life.

"I belong to Venezuela," her father had said to her. "It's easier for you to detach."

Guevara said she feels some guilt for leaving her family in Venezuela while she lives comfortably in the United States.

She shared a few stories about her friends in Venezuela who have experienced being robbed during class, heard bombings outside their houses, faced the dangers of tear gas out in the streets and the obligatory need to be at home before dark in order to avoid kidnapping or theft.

She adds that the protests have always been present.

"Important dates like Independence Day, Indigenous people's days and others have become days for protests," she said.

Her mother never let her go out to the streets to protest, but Guevara remembers situations in which the National Guard shot protesters.

"Aren't they here to protect us?" she said, as she reflected on the violence.

But regardless of what her country is facing, Guevara says she focuses on the beauty of Venezuela.

"I always tell [other people] that Venezuela is beautiful," she said. "I talk about the beaches, deserts and waterfalls."

Guevara wishes people would've reacted sooner about Chavez's socialism ideas.

"I wish Chavez would've never won."

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POLITICS

Former FBI director fired unexpectedly

Comey learned of firing from TV while talking to FBI agents in L.A.

By Richard Winton and James Queally
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — James B. Comey, who was ousted Tuesday as FBI director by President Donald Trump, learned about his firing from a TV news report while speaking with FBI agents in Los Angeles, according to an FBI source.

"He was caught flat-footed," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Comey was surprised by the news but kept talking to the agents, the source said.

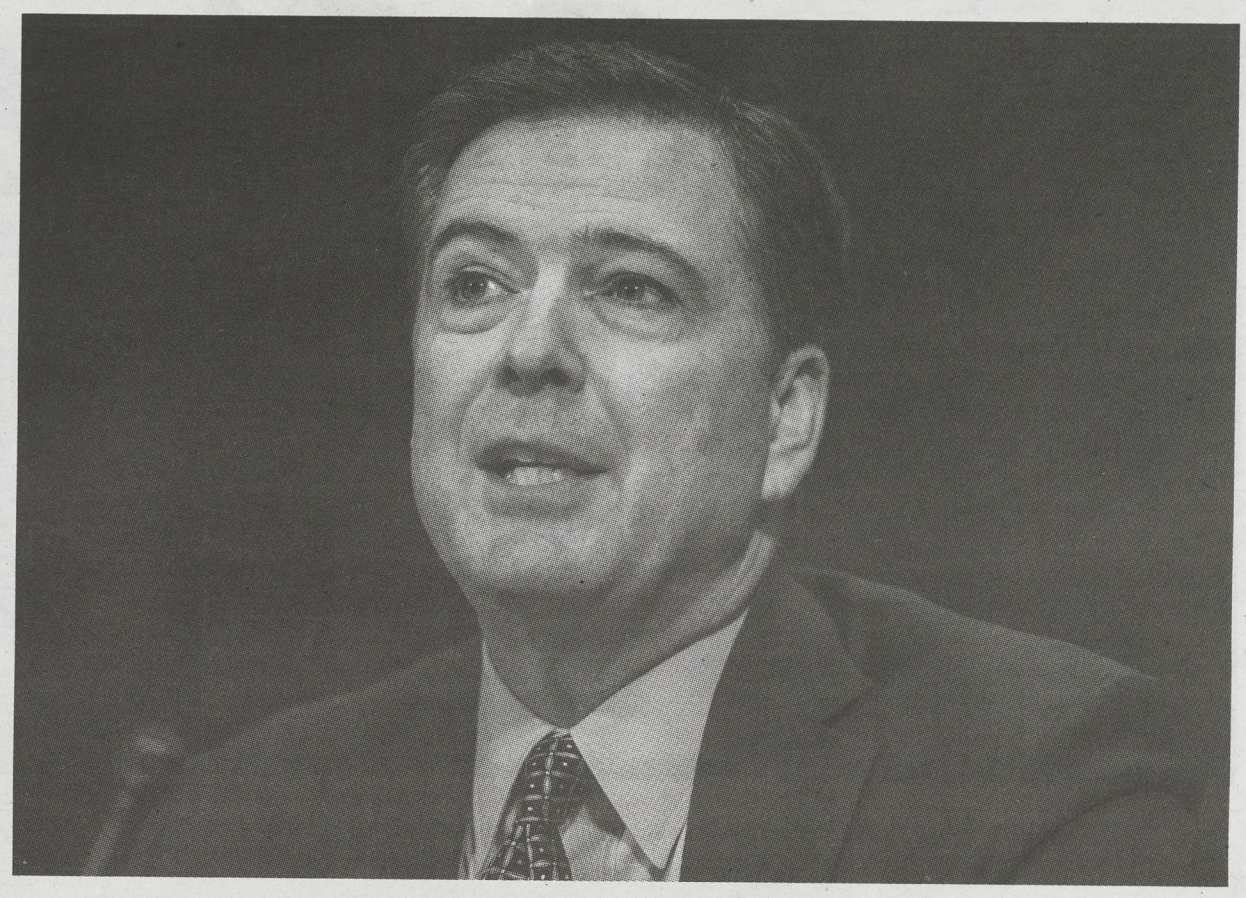
Comey had been set to speak Tuesday night at an FBI recruiting event in Hollywood. But Comey instead headed for Los Angeles International Airport.

More than two dozen reporters were standing outside the Directors Guild of America, where the event was taking place, awaiting Comey.

In announcing Comey's firing, Trump said the move was necessary to allow a "new beginning" at the FBI.

Comey has been supervising an investigation of Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and the possibility of cooperation between people linked to Trump's campaign and Moscow.

Meanwhile, the FBI director has been widely criticized by people in both parties for his handling of investigations connected to the election – the Russia inquiry as well as the probe into Hillary Clinton's email practices while she was secretary of state.



Tom Williams | Congressional Quarterly | Newscom | Zuma Press
FBI Director James Comey testifies before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing titled, "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," on May 3 in Washington, D.C.

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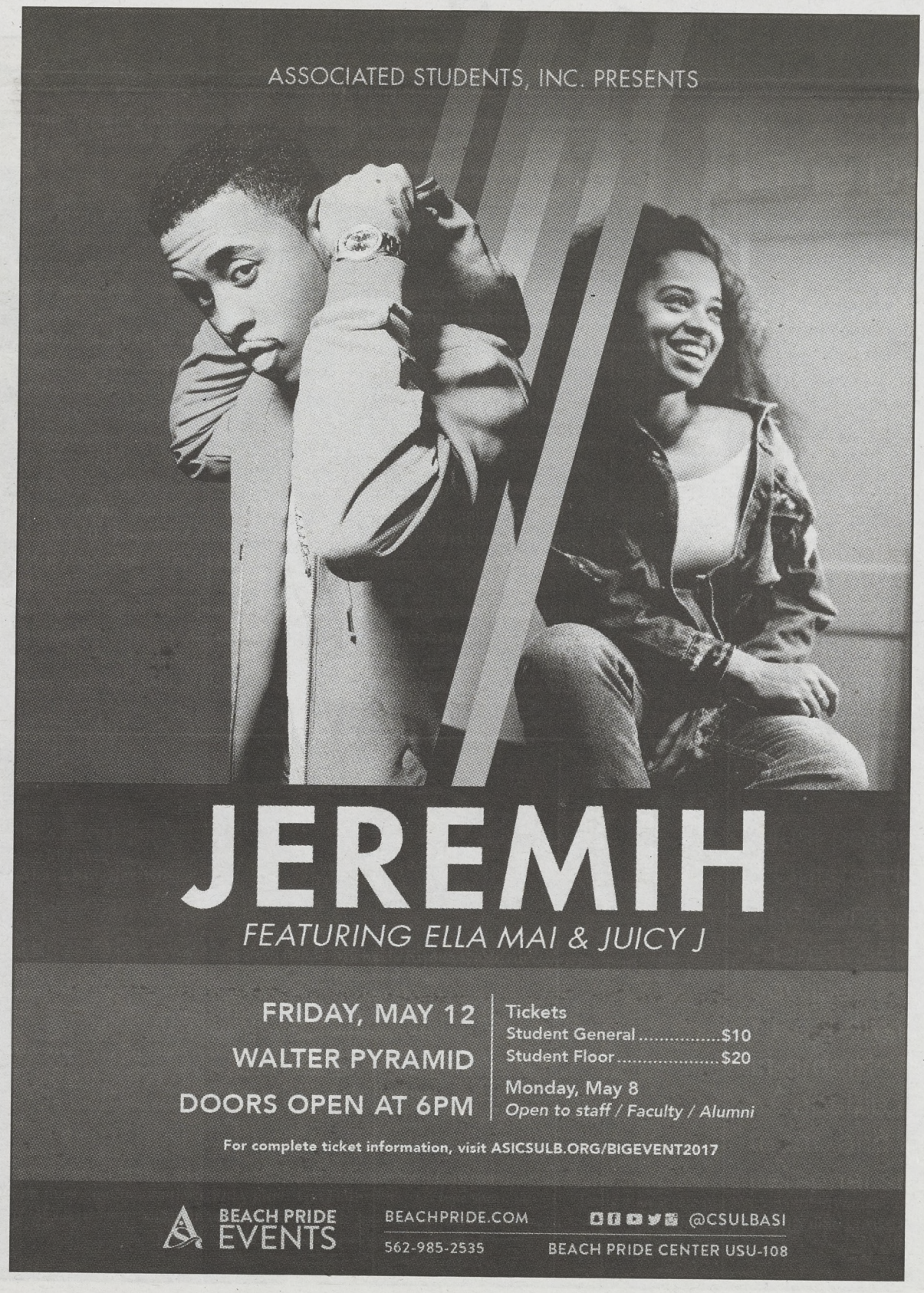

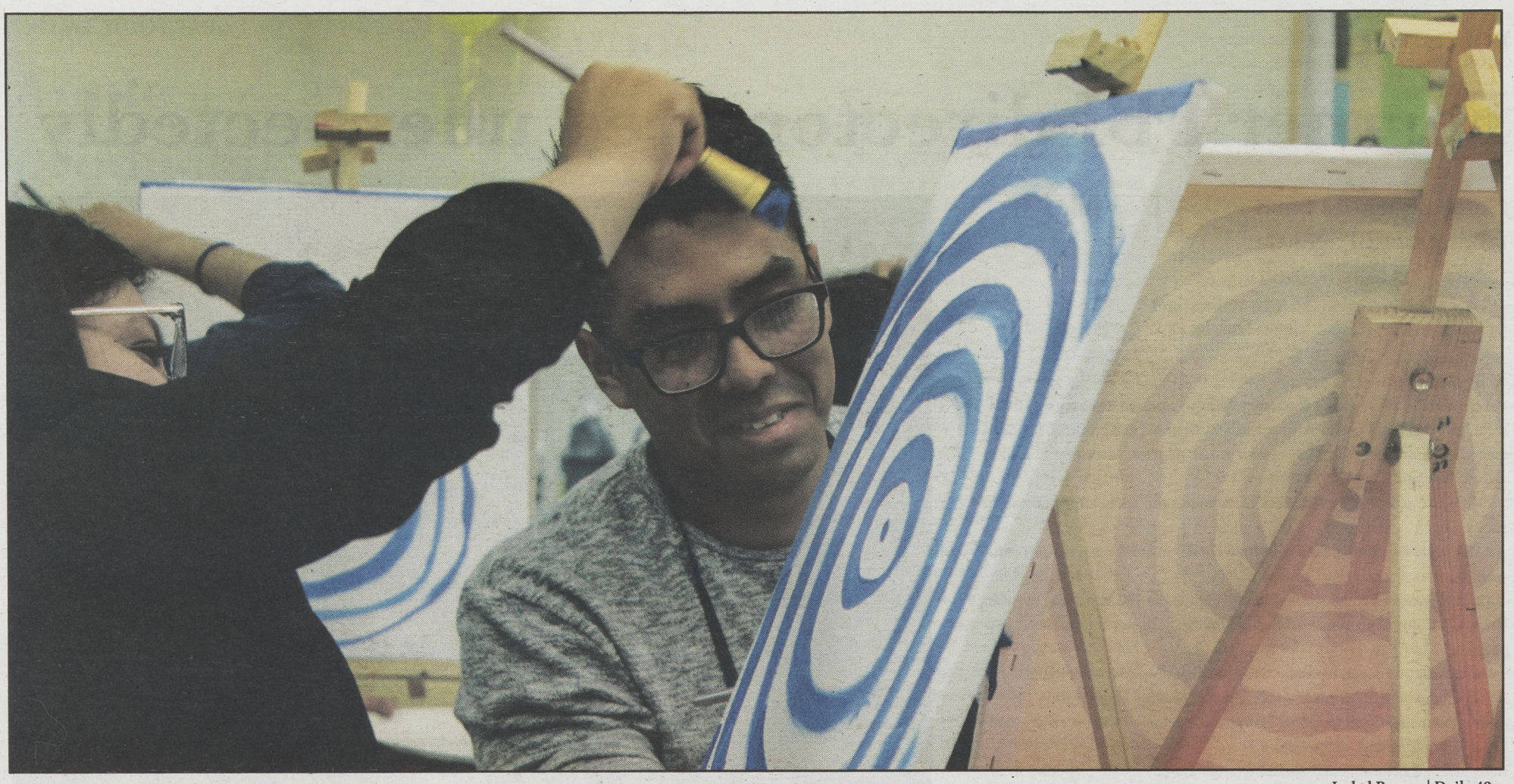

Isabel Ramos | Daily 49er

At the beginning of the evening, students' paintings resembled blue target boards during the second annual Corks and Canvases event Tuesday at University Student Union 100.

CAMPUS EVENTS

A starry night makes the finals bright

Students painted, drank and connected at Corks and Canvases.

By Isabel Ramos
Staff Writer

Tuesday night students trickled into University Student Union 100, the Art Gallery room, for a chance to express themselves through painting, listening to music, socializing with friends and drinking mocktails.

It was the second annual Corks and Canvases event set up by Beach Pride for Cal State Long Beach Students. Students who signed up for the event beforehand got to vote on a selection of images, to choose the painting they would imitate and learn to recreate with their own hand.

The event was hosted by Marie and Rich Gleerup, co-owners of Paint 'n' Pour. They gave students a step-by-step demonstration on how to create a specific painting while everyone watched over snacks and mocktails. The Gleerups started Paint 'n Pour after realizing that no such business existed in Southern California. They said that their business emphasizes the importance and need for art and creativity.

"I think creativity is very important because it allows you to get outside of your normal day-to-day," said Marie Gleerup, instructor for the event and alumni of CSULB, "It forces you out of your pattern and you immediately start to think about all kinds of other things. Well if [you] can do this, what else can [you] do."

At the Paint 'n Pour studio in Redondo Beach, there is the option of drinking wine or beer while painting, hence the name, Corks and Canvases.

The event was at a time close to finals so it might act as a break from all the stress that comes with the end of the semester, allowing students to have fun and make art for two stress-free hours.

"Who doesn't like to paint?" said Adriana Medina, a junior marketing major and volunteer at Beach Pride "It's really calming and relaxing, especially right now during finals I know a lot of students would appreciate it."

As students drank their mocktails and ate cookies, the Gleerups began their step-by-step instructions on how to make a painting of a time lapse starry night in the woods.

It started off with a simple dot, but by the end of the night students were able to leave with their own original artwork, whether it would be proudly displayed, or just a humorous conversation piece.

Samantha Diaz | Daily 49er

The final product replicated a time lapse photograph of a starry night in the woods.

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ALBUM REVIEW

Limited love for new Grouplove

The indie rock band's latest EP title "Little Mess" is a little too on the nose.

By Jason Enns
Arts & Life Editor

Facebook

Grouplove's new EP "Little Mess" hit stores April 22 and joined the free market of YouTube May 5.

Diehard Grouplove fans have probably already been listening to their new EP "Little Mess" for a couple weeks now. Not that I'm a half-hearted fan, I just haven't paid for a new album in about three years.

"Little Mess," the EP attached to Grouplove's latest LP "Big Mess," was released on April 22. However, when you've reached the level of success Grouplove has, you don't hype up a new album just to immediately distribute it for free in places like SoundCloud and YouTube.

However, for us cheapskates, the day has finally come. The official Grouplove YouTube channel posted the five new tracks on May 5.

As a huge fan of this band, I have to say that the EP is good — but it is not their best. One of the great aspects of Grouplove's distinct sound is their ability to combine authentic, hard-hitting rock with an indie pop style, at times mixing in use of synthesizers and electric drums.

The appeal for me has often been the impeccable energy in their songs. In each album they've released, there has always been at least one song that makes me want to jump around and scream; to dance like no one's watching, and sing like no one's listening.

That energy has been present in each of their three studio albums, but is less present in their debut self-titled EP in 2011.

For that reason, I suppose the sound in "Little Mess" is an accurate cumulation of their full stylistic journey as a band. Much of it is melancholy both lyrically and musically.

The album begins with "Tell Me a Story," a song that sounds like Cary Brothers' "Blue Eyes," or any other song from the Garden State soundtrack, really.

It does eventually build into a much heavier, but slow-tempoed finish, giving them even more of a progressive rock feel then we've previously heard from them.

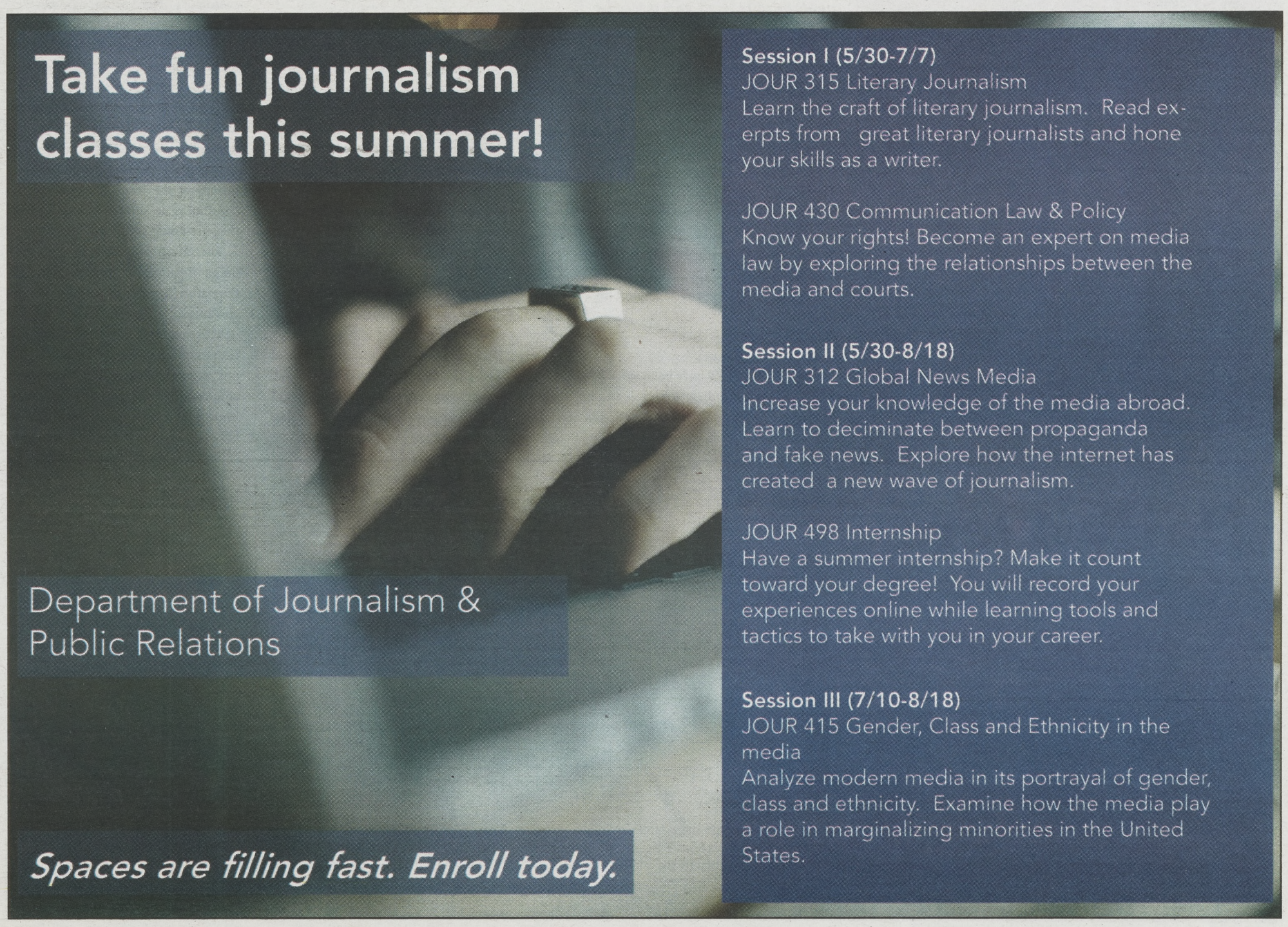
This is consistent with track four which is a live recording of "Enlighten Me," a popular song from "Big Mess." However, they are only full band for the last minute of the five and a half minute song, and the rest is just frontman Christian Zucconi on an acoustic. For me, the problem reverting to this style is the fact that Zucconi's crackly, high-pitched voice is best suited for high-energy, full-voice screams, not this delicate acoustic stuff.

Tracks two and three, "Torso" and "MRI" we get more of the slow-tempoed, yet heavy genre that I can best describe as ballad rock.

We don't get any of that groovy, poppy, make-you-want-to-dance music until the final song "Adios Amigos." This track is the only one I could see circulating the radio, but it doesn't quite compare to their songs that have gained mainstream popularity in the past.

I know it may seem like really didn't enjoy this EP, but I did, I'm just putting out some constructive criticism. If we are not critical, we are just complacent.

In conclusion, I predict "Little Mess" will remain just that — little, never quite gaining the traction of Grouplove's previous albums.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RETAIL

Nordstrom's 'dirty' jeans get a dirty response

The online community ridicules Nordstrom for attempting to glamorize working class Americans.

By Matthew Ramirez
Staff Writer

Screenshot

Nordstrom's Barracuda Straight Leg Jeans, selling for $425, are splattered with a fake mud-like material. The jeans are insulting to those who actually engage in labor intensive work.

Following, an $85 "paperweight," construed of a rock wrapped in a leather pouch, Nordstrom released a pair of "muddy" jeans selling for $425.

The popular high end retailers are continuing the trend of strange — and impractical — items for sale under its name.

Nordstrom released the Barracuda Straight Leg Jeans, splattered with a fake mud-like material to, according to the store website, give buyers a look "that shows you're not afraid to get down and dirty." Nordstrom is attempting to glamorize the American working-class for the consumption of upper-class people at a cost only the wealthy can pay.

But for Nordstrom to sell a pair of "worn down and rugged" jeans for $425 is not trendy, artsy, or even cool. It's insulting.

Insulting to those who actually do get worn down and rugged in labor intensive work while affluent youth are posing to look like working-class citizens.

Nordstrom is appropriating the image of hardworking people – mechanics, farm and migrant workers, custodial workers — and they are selling it to a demographic that likely has had no experience in any of those fields.

The design of the jeans themselves say one thing: I enjoy looking like somebody who works hard without putting in any of the effort.

Nordstrom is enabling the egotism of its customers to be shown to anyone who sees them wearing those jeans.

While affluent customers of Nordstrom have the money to buy these jeans, this does not mean that those who own the jeans are hard-working people themselves.

Those who can afford the jeans may not have earned the money, but rather gained it through inheritance from their wealthy relatives or cash gifts.

For youth to be privileged with money, it does not mean that they've also gained any of the values that one gets from working paycheck-to-paycheck.

The jeans quickly became the topic of conversation online with Mike Rowe, host of the television show "Dirty Jobs," shared his criticism of the glamorized "rugged workwear."

Rowe posted his criticisms onto his Facebook page, which were shared more than 13,000 times.

"Finally — a pair of jeans that look like they have been worn by someone with a dirty job … made for people who don't… The Barracuda Straight Leg Jeans aren't pants.

> Nordstrom is appropriating the image of hardworking people – mechanics, farm and migrant workers, custodial workers — and they are selling it to a demographic that likely has had no experience in any of those fields.

They're not even fashion. They're a costume for wealthy people who see work as ironic — not iconic," Rowe posted.

Conversation about the jeans continued on Twitter where users shared their opinions, many of them being negative.

The online community was quick to mock the company and show their disapproval.

User @strangertweets tweeted:"Pathetic. If you want muddy jeans, try hard work. That builds character, too."

Steve Butts, editor in chief of Imagine Games Network tweeted: "For when you need a pair of jeans as fake as you are," with a picture of the jeans.

Mike Rowe, and many others share this view that Nordstrom is using the image of the working class as its new style for clothing and the rich youth are adopting this style, wearing the "costume of the rugged worker" for hundreds of dollars.

It may very well be that the fashion enthusiasts at Nordstrom are promoting the working class with good intentions, but the execution of this attempt is showing adverse results.

If the company wanted to acknowledge working class people, then a more appropriate approach could have been a donation of clothes or a sort of charity organization for lower-income families and individuals that rely on the jobs that get mud on clothing in the first place.

Upper-class Americans can still be thankful for the labor that the working class provides, but selling a pair of "down and dirty" jeans at an insanely expensive price not only excludes the working class, but also insults them.

Attempting to "look poor" does not equate to actually being poor as rich individuals won't know what it means to work day and night in order to feed themselves and their families or the discrimination placed upon actual laborers.

Many comments to Nordstrom mocked the company, its jeans and customers. Nordstrom has not responded to criticisms and still offering the jeans in several variations on their website.

Nordstrom's refusal to terminate the sale of the jeans is proving their dismissive consideration for the economic lower class.

Regardless of what people are saying about the jeans the company is continuing to offer them so long as they are being sold.

The image of the working class is being dishonestly popularized and the nature capitalism is allowing it to continue.

This may not be a direct instigation to the working class but it is still one that marginalizes lower income communities and makes their opinions, their voices, quiet.

Daily 49er

Editorial Office
Phone (562) 985-8000
Fax (562) 985-7994

1250 Bellflower Blvd., LA4-201
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

General Manager
Beverly Munson
(562) 985-5736

Design Adviser **Gary Metzker**
Content Adviser **Barbara Kingsley-Wilson**

Business Office
Phone (562) 985-8001
Fax (562) 985-1740

1250 Bellflower Blvd., LA4-203A
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

Micayla Vermeeren
Editor-in-Chief
eicd49er@gmail.com

Miranda Andrade-Ceja
Managing Editor
managingd49er@gmail.com

News Editor **Valerie Osier**
cityd49er@gmail.com

Arts and Life Editor **Jason Enns**
artsnlifed49er@gmail.com

Sports Editor **Matthew Simon**
sportsd49er@gmail.com

Opinions Editor **Hanna Suarez**
opedd49er@gmail.com

Multimedia Managing Editor **Yasmin Cortez**
Photo Editor **Jose De Castro**
Design Editor **Lindsey Maeda**
Social Media Editor **Robert Yagake**
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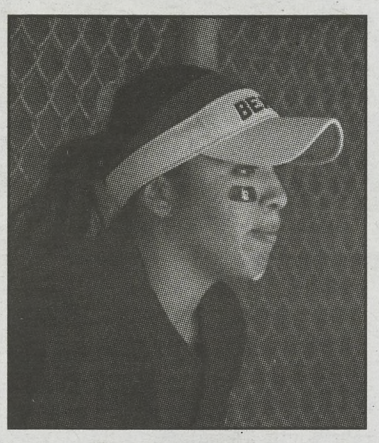


CIELO MEXA
FRESHMAN

SOFTBALL

LBSU softball head to Hawai'i

Long Beach State finishes 2017 season in the "Aloha State" this weekend.

By Zulema Suarez
Staff Writer

After dropping two games to UC Riverside this past weekend, the Long Beach State softball team is heading to Hawai'i to wrap up its season

In their games against the Highlanders, the Beach lost its first game 5-1, then lost the second game 10-2, but for their final game, the team made a comeback shutting out their opponents with a 9-0 win for Cielo Meza, her first collegiate no-hitter.

The Beach played 20 games away since the start of the season, and the results have been split at exactly 10 wins and 10 losses.

At home, the 49ers have won 11 games, lost 17 and tied once.

Overall, Hawai'i has won 28 games and lost 21 this season.

Since their 2012-2013 season, the Beach has beat out Hawaii every year with two wins and one loss and in 2013-2014, the 49ers won all three games.

The series will begin in Honolulu, Hawai'i on Thursday at 9 p.m., and will continue Friday night at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Photos by Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

Senior Laura Eales of England pumps her fist as she celebrates winning a point during her doubles match April 15 at Rhodes Tennis Center. Eales is one of four international players playing for LBSU Tennis.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Beach goes global

Long Beach State women's tennis team signs four interational players.

By Angela Yim
Contributing Writer

Long Beach State women's tennis coach Jenny Hilt-Costello announced on Tuesday that the Beach has signed on four incoming freshmen for LBSU's 2017 signing class from all over the world.

The four recruits are from all over the world: Carlota Casasampere (Spain), Lalita Devarakonda (India), Georgia Gulin (Brazil) and Sadaf Sadeghvaziri (Iran) looks to replace the highest ranked senior class in LBSU women's tennis program history.

"We are extremely excited to welcome Carlota, Lalita, Georgia and Sadaf to our Beach Tennis family," Hilt-Costello said of the incoming signing class. "They are a very talented group and will bring some new energy and excitement to our program. There are some big shoes to fill, but I know they are more than capable."

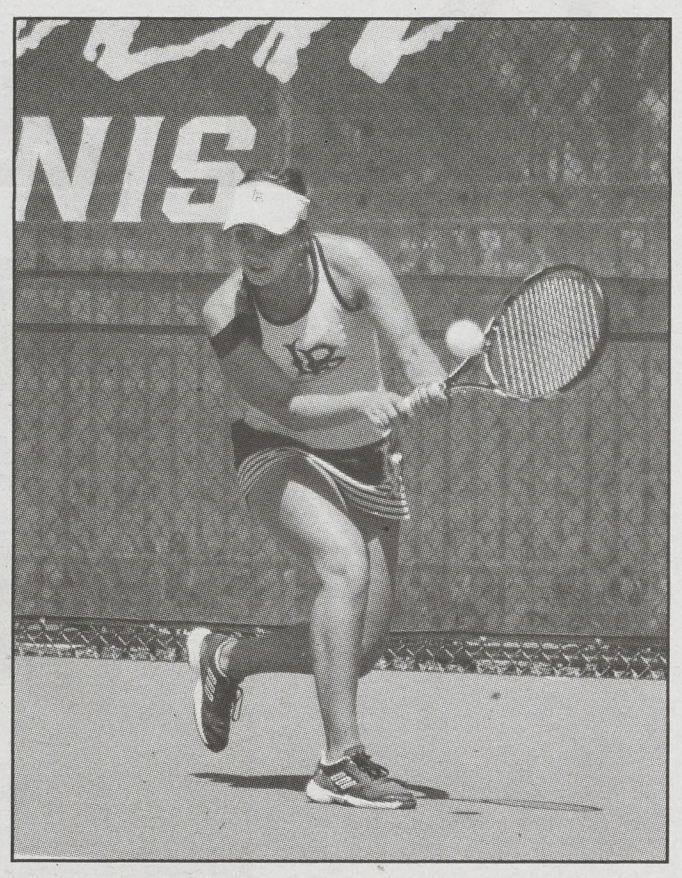
Casaasampere was ranked in the Top 200 in Spain's women's ranking at the age of 15, after returning from a knee injury she had several wins in the Top 100 competitions and roughly 40 tournament wins in her career.

Devarakonda was the 2013 Player of the Year at the All India CBSE Nationals, in 2016 she made a pair of semifinal appearances at the U18 Nationals and she was ranked in the Top 10 in the All India Under-18 rankings.

Gulin has a career-best ITF ranking of 318, ranked No. 2 in Brazil's U16, won the Brazilian Federation Cup, and received a certificate from the Minister of Sports for her athletic accomplishments in 2014.

Sadeghavazirir is currently ranked the No. 1 junior and No. 1 women's player in the country, and has a career-best ITF ranking of 314. She won the singles draw of the 2nd Fajr Junior Tournament in February, and will be competing at the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The international incoming freshman will be joining the returning players – Lena Pacholski (junior), Maren Helgo (freshman) and Natalia Munoz (freshman) for the 2017-18 Beach Tennis season.



Junior Lena Pacholski of France in action during the April 15 match against UC Santa Barbara at Rhodes Tennis Center. Pacholski will be one of the returning international players for the 2017-18 season.

D49er SPORTS

Follow @49ERSPORTS for live tweeting of LBSU games.

Photos by Luke Ramirez | Daily 49er

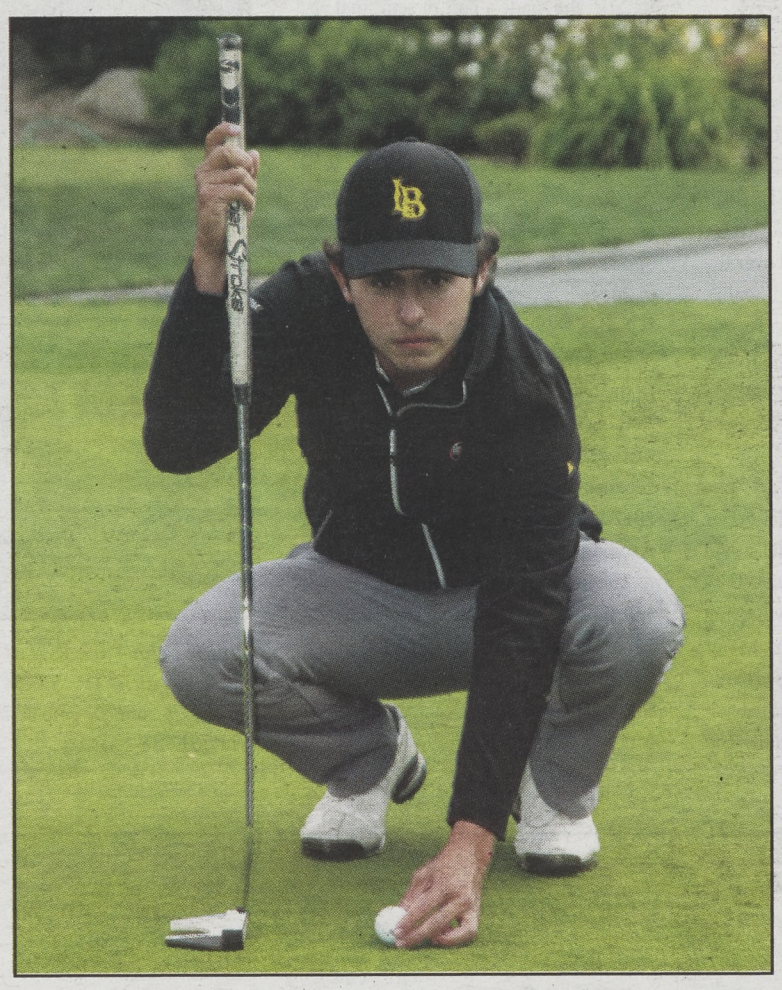
Sophomore Andres Gonzalez qualified for the NCAA regional tournament after three top 10 finishes to end the season.

MEN'S GOLF

On a mission

Long Beach State golfer becaomes the second to compete at national tournament.

By Luke Ramirez
Assistant Sports Editor



Freshman Andres Gonzalez is averaging 71.91 strokes per round this season.

Among the 45 individual golfers selected to play in the NCAA regional tournament, sophomore Andres Gonzales qualified to represent Long Beach State on college golf's biggest stage.

Gonzales' average score of 71.91 and his 10 out of 12 top 25 finishes were good enough to receive an at-large bid into the tournament at Stanford Golf Course on Stanford's campus.

"When I found out that I qualified I got very excited and was proud of myself," Gonzales said.

2017 has been a good year for Gonzalez, who has finished in the top ten in his last three tournaments leading up to this weekend's regional.

"There was some up and downs, but mostly good golf," Gonzalez said. "I really improved this year."

With his best posted scores being two rounds of 66 (5 under par), Gonzalez has proven that he can go low and find himself in contention to win.

"I developed much better course management and worked on the little details of my swing," Gonzalez said. "Working on those little details and hitting different shots are important."

Success hasn't come easy for the sophomore in the past. His long-term adjustments over the course of the 2017 season have slowly progressed Gonzalez's game into national recognition.

"You might not realize [the difference] in the short term but overtime, it adds up and you improve your game," Gonzalez said. "My expectations for this weekend are high. I've been working harder than ever this year and I'm looking to perform very well."

Gonzalez has made 119 birdies and three eagles this season. His top finishing position was a tie for sixth at the Wyoming Cowboy Classic where he carded 72,70 and 68 for a total of six under par.

Hailing from Mexico City, Mexico, Gonzalez grew up around the game and developed a strong passion that led him to receiving a scholarship to play at LBSU.

"I came to LBSU because it's close to home," Gonzalez said. "I love the weather and the coaches here are great."

Gonzalez is very deeply rooted in his Mexican heritage and models himself after the professionals he can relate to the most. The young golfer is also very confident in joining those he admires in the near future.

"I always look up to the Mexican professionals that are trying to make the PGA tour," Gonzalez said. "I see myself there. I'm going to be there soon."

Before he can think about that, Gonzalez must set his sights on the upcoming NCAA regionals May 15-17. He will be playing among the west coast's top college golfers and will have to be firing on all cylinders to post another mid 60's round to keep him in contention.

"When you have those kinds of rounds everything is working together," Gonzalez said. "I normally have a good short game, so when I am hitting longer [approach] shots better I play well."

Gonzalez may not be the longest hitter to compete at Stanford this weekend, but he possesses a great short game around the greens that he relies on to score.

"I don't consider myself a long hitter," Gonzalez said. "I am more [accurate] with my drives and my short game is really my strength."

The next step for LBSU's standout is the National Championships at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Illinois. As only the second golfer in LBSU history to be invited to the NCAA playoffs, Gonzalez spoke about what it would mean to him to advance through the regional.

"Qualifying for the national championship would be huge for me," he said. "I've had three top tens in my last three tournaments and I'm looking for another one and to be somewhere closer to the lead."

With a huge opportunity at the beginning of next week, Gonzalez will be looking to make his family, school and himself proud with a strong performance.

FAST FACTS

FRESHMAN ANDRES GONZALEZ

10 Top 25 finishes this season.

119 Total birdies in his first season with LBSU.

4.7 Average during par 5 holes this season.

3 Consecutive Top 10 finishes to lead LBSU.

66 Number of top 10 consecutive finishes to lead LBSU in last three tournaments.